

requirements of the geologist collecting, arranging, and tabulating the fossils he obtains, but the perfect and masterly manner in which the authorities and references are enumerated with each genus and species, not carelessly or scrimpingly, but liberally as to titles, pages, and figures (rivalling H. G. Bronn's splendid 'Index Palæontologicus,' and Morris's 'Catalogue of British Fossils'), is evident on every page, and gives a particular value to this laborious compilation. The natural orders and families are carefully mentioned; and the *best* figures and descriptions, too, are specially indicated; and there are extremely few references which the author has not himself consulted.

The cordial recognition of every aid given to Mr. Etheridge in the furtherance of this most valuable work is a pleasant feature; and the sympathetic and respectful mention of the labours of the pioneers and promoters of Australian geology is most honourable to our author, who has himself been an active labourer in that most interesting and useful field of science.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Note on the Occurrence of the Genus Lymnæa in Australia.

By ALFRED BROWN.

IN a sketch of the "Geographical Relations of the New-Zealand Fauna," in the 'Annals' for January and February 1874, Captain F. W. Hutton remarks that whilst the genus *Lymnæa* extends from North America and Europe to India, China, and Java, it is not found in Australia, reappearing, however, in New Zealand. Bearing this statement in mind I was surprised, on examining a parcel of freshwater shells brought home from Queensland by my brother, to find certainly two, probably three, species of *Lymnæa* mixed up with the characteristic *Physæ* and *Melanice* of Queensland waters.

One of the species is from Huntly Creek, Peak Downs; the other (or two others) are from the Isaac and Burnett rivers.

That these habitats are strictly correct I have not the slightest doubt, the specimens having been collected *en route* from Northern Queensland to Sydney, whence the steamer brought the collector direct home; and the shells reached me packed in their native mud. Further evidence of locality was found on breaking up a decayed specimen, when a small example of a *Physa* common in the Isaac river was found imbedded between the whorls.

Whilst on the subject of Captain Hutton's paper, I may state that *Nautilus pompilius*, which he excludes from the Australian fauna, is occasionally, but very rarely, found thrown up on the beach in the vicinity of Port Bowen, from which locality I lately received a fresh example. Captain Hutton refers the "pipi" of the New-Zealand natives to *Chione Stutchburyi*, Gray (Wood's Cat. Suppl.

Venus, f. 4). I have always understood that Dr. Gray's reference of the "pipi" (on the authority of Sinclair and Dieffenbach) to *Mesodesma Chemnitzii*, Deshayes (Wood's Cat. *Mactra*, f. 24), was the correct one.

20 Huntly Gardens, Glasgow,
Nov. 15, 1878.

Note on the Number of Cervical Vertebrae in Dinornis robustus.
By Prof. F. W. HUTTON, of the Otago University.

Last July a magnificent skeleton of *Dinornis robustus*, found in the Shag valley, was presented to the Otago Museum by A. W. Bell, Esq. This skeleton is complete, with the exception of the cranium, first, second, third, and sixth cervical vertebrae, a few caudal vertebrae, two left ribs, and the metatarsal of the left hallux.

The cervical vertebrae are twenty-one in number (including the four that are missing), and the dorsal are six, or twenty-seven in all. The fifth is without any median hypapophysis. The neural spine becomes single on the nineteenth; the hypapophyses become single on the twentieth. The hypapophyses are furthest apart on the fifteenth. It thus appears that the number of vertebrae in the long-legged species of Moa was the same as in the short-legged, in which I have already shown (*Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* 1878, 5th series, vol. i. p. 407) the number of cervical vertebrae to be twenty or twenty-one.

A remarkable peculiarity in this specimen is that the neural spine is single on the fourth and fifth cervicals. There are six ribs on each side, of which the third and fourth alone bear sternal ribs. There is no appearance of any floating sternal rib as in *D. elephantopus*. The proximal phalanx of the hallux is articulated to the unguis phalanx, but not to the metatarsal of the hallux, which is detached.

There is in the Museum collection the leg and foot of a specimen of *D. casuarinus*, in which the metatarsal of the hallux is preceded by another bone. This bone is thin, flat, and triangular in shape, its apex being distal and completely detached from the other metatarsals. Whether it is a continuation of the metatarsal, or whether it represents the calcaneum, I am uncertain.

On the Affinities of the Coleopterous Genus Hades, Thomson (Heteromera, Nilionidae). By CHARLES O. WATERHOUSE.

I have just been referring to M. Thomson's monograph of the family Nilionidae*; and seeing that the new genus *Hades* was founded on a Javan insect received from Dr. Horsfield, I at once looked at the Horsfield collection of Javan Coleoptera in this museum, and was glad to find two specimens which are undoubtedly

* 'Musée Scientifique,' 1860, p. 13.